



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia and Kings Canyon
National Parks

47050 Generals Hwy.
Three Rivers, CA 93271

559 565-3341 phone
559 565-3730 fax

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks News Release

For Immediate Release: August 8, 2014

Contact: Dana M. Dierkes

Phone: (559) 565-3131 (office) and (559) 679-2866 (cell)

Recent Incidents at Sequoia National Park

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, CA –The following incidents happened from August 2-7, 2014, at Sequoia National Park:

- On August 7, 2014, at approximately 2:40 p.m., a wilderness ranger received a report of a 66-year-old male suffering from extreme lower back pain at the base of Wallace Creek near Junction Meadow in Sequoia National Park. The hiker was unable to continue the trip by hiking or riding out by horse or mule. On August 8, a Parkmedic** was flown to the patient, and he was transported to a helibase at Sequoia National Park, where he was transported to the hospital by ambulance.
- On August 5, 2014, at approximately 10:17 a.m., the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks' Dispatch Office received a report from Tulare County Fire of a 51-year-old woman having seizures in the Inyo National Forest within Tulare County, approximately 500 feet from the park boundary near the Kern Ranger Station. The patient's family requested that she be evacuated by helicopter. Sequoia National Park sent a Parkmedic** by helicopter to the area. After an initial assessment, the patient was flown to a helibase at Sequoia National Park and transported to the hospital by ambulance.
- On August 5, 2014, at approximately 2:04 p.m., Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks' Dispatch Office received a satellite phone call from an individual whose hiking companion collapsed in Nine Lakes Basin near Kaweah Gap in Sequoia National Park. The patient was a 56-year-old male from Livermore, CA. The patient's three hiking companions initiated CPR and continued providing

– continued on page 2 –

– continued from page 1 –

lifesaving measures for approximately one hour. He failed to respond to CPR and never regained a pulse. Two Parkmedics** flew to the scene. Medical control was contacted and the park was instructed to discontinue lifesaving efforts. The body was flown to a helibase in Sequoia National Park and transferred to the coroner.

- On August 2, 2014, at approximately 1:12 p.m., a 57-year-old female activated a personal locator beacon near Nine Lakes Basin in Sequoia National Park to request emergency assistance. A Parkmedic** was flown by helicopter to the patient. The patient was transported to a helibase and transported to the hospital by ambulance.

– NPS –

** What is a Parkmedic? (A full explanation can be found on the UCSF Fresno Medical Education Program website at <http://www.fresno.ucsf.edu/em/parkmedic/>, but a short description is listed below.)

Parkmedics are park rangers with specialty medical training. Their training is similar to an EMT-Intermediate, but with an expanded pharmacological and procedural scope of practice.

Parkmedics in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park provide EMS services under protocols written, reviewed and revised by Parkmedic residents. Parkmedics call for medical direction from the field to the UMC emergency department, where trained residents provide advice and consultation via radio.